

The Giving Tree is a story written by Shel Silverstein. I read it to the class at the beginning of the year because of its message and its correlation to, "The Pinchill Way."

It is a story about a young boy that becomes friends with a tree.

- He uses it to play and climb on in the beginning of his life.
- He uses it for shade when he begins dating.
- He uses its apples for nourishment when he loses his job
- He uses its branches and trunk to build a house because he has no money or shelter.

Each time he spends more and more time away from the tree. In the end he comes back and the tree says she no longer has anything to offer. By this time he is old and all he wants is a friend. The tree offers him the only thing she has left which is her trunk and so he sits down to rest.

We then talked about how the tree gave without wanting anything in return and she was happy because she was able to help someone and bring to them a sense of joy. We also talked about how always taking and giving nothing in return, ends up making us feel lonely and negative about ourselves.

There are a wide variety of messages on the leaves. The Giving Tree continues throughout the year and is reflected on frequently.